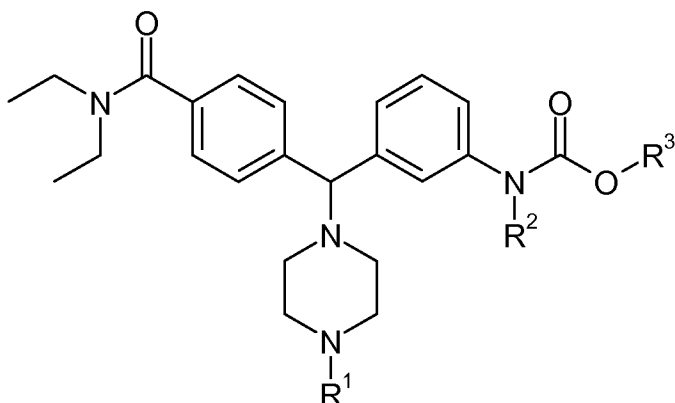


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



I

wherein

R¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R² is selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R³ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-methyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-methyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, -CF₃, C₁₋₆alkoxy, chloro, fluoro and bromo;

R² is selected from -H and C₁₋₃alkyl; and

R³ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-methyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-methyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methoxy, ethoxy and isopropoxy;

R² is selected from -H; and

R³ is selected from methyl, ethyl, propyl and isopropyl.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R¹ is selected from n-propyl, cyclopropylmethyl, n-pentyl, 2-methoxyethyl, n-butyl, 2-isopropoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 3-methoxypropyl, cyclobutylmethyl, methyl, and ethyl;

R² is selected from -H; and

R³ is selected from methyl and ethyl.

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

Compound 1: methyl 3-[(S)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}[4-(2-methoxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 2: methyl 3-[(S)-(4-butylpiperazin-1-yl){4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 3: methyl 3-[(S)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(4-pentylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 4: methyl 3-[(S)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 5: methyl 3-[(S)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 6: methyl 3-[(S)-[4-(cyclobutylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}methyl]phenylcarbamate;

Compound 7: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-(2-methoxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 8: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-(2-ethoxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 9: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-(3-methoxypropyl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 10: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 11: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-butylpiperazin-1-yl}{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 12: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-pentylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 13: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl}{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 14: methyl 3-[(R)-{4-(cyclobutylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl}{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 15: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-(2-methoxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 16: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-butylpiperazin-1-yl}{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 17: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl}{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 18: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 19: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

Compound 20: ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}{4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl}phenyl]carbamate;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

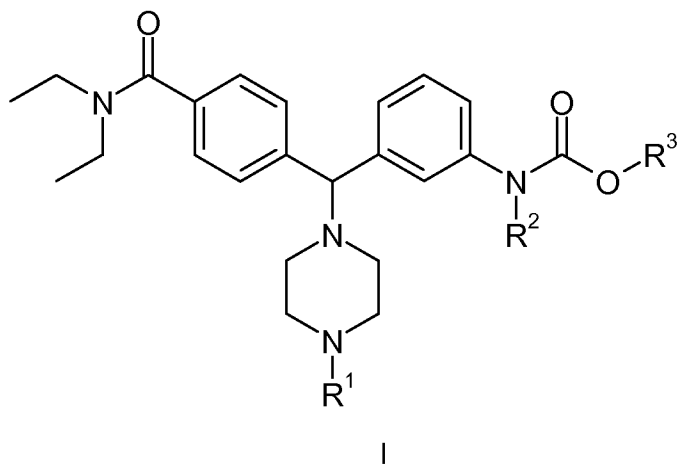
6-7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

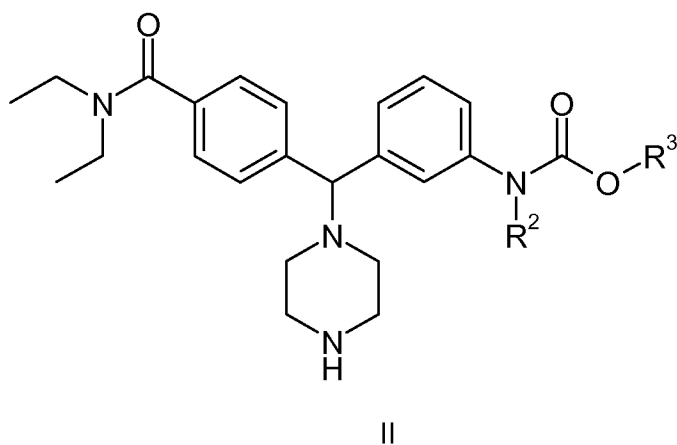
9. (previously presented) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



reacting a compound of formula II with R^1-X :



wherein X is a halogen;

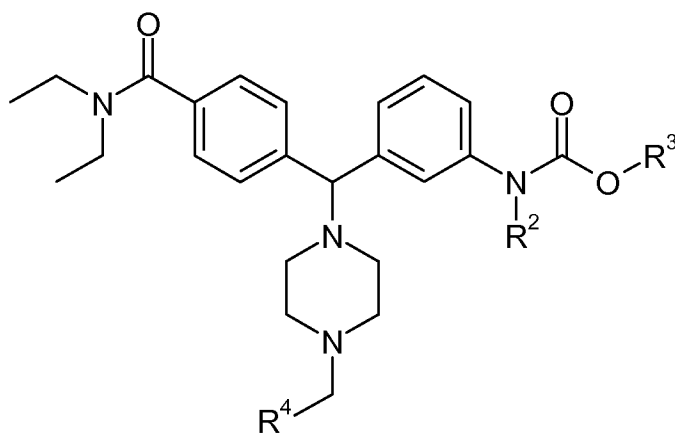
R^1 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl- C_{1-4} alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -

$C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from -H, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

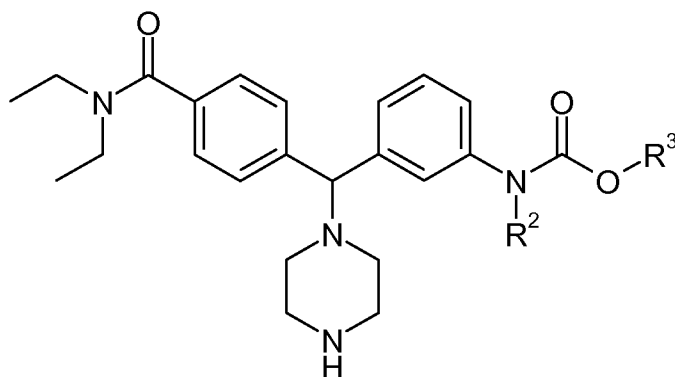
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl.

12. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula III, comprising:



III

reacting a compound of formula II with R^4-CHO :



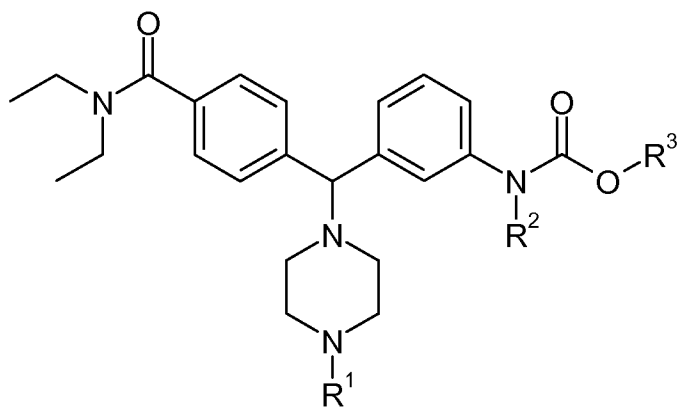
II

wherein R^4 is selected from $-H$, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from $-R$, $-NO_2$, $-OR$, $-Cl$, $-Br$, $-I$, $-F$, $-CF_3$, $-C(=O)R$, $-C(=O)OH$, $-NH_2$, $-SH$, $-NHR$, $-NR_2$, $-SR$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, $-S(=O)R$, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-C(=O)OR$, $-C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl;

R^2 is selected from $-H$, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from $-OR$, $-Cl$, $-Br$, $-I$, $-F$, $-CF_3$, $-C(=O)R$, $-C(=O)OH$, $-NH_2$, $-SH$, $-NHR$, $-NR_2$, $-SR$, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, $-S(=O)R$, $-CN$, $-OH$, $-C(=O)OR$, $-C(=O)NR_2$, $-NRC(=O)R$, and $-NRC(=O)-OR$, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl; and

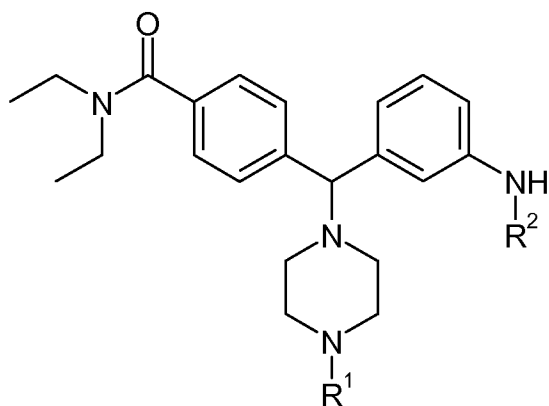
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, wherein said C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{3-6} cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6} alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6} alkyl, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6} alkoxy, chloro, fluoro and bromo.

13. (original) A process of preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



I

reacting a compound of formula IV with $R^3-O-C(=O)-X$:



IV

wherein X is a halogen;

R¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl, C₂₋₆alkenyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO₂, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl;

R² is selected from -H, C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; and

R³ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, wherein said C₁₋₆alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF₃, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH₂, -SH, -NHR, -NR₂, -SR, -SO₃H, -SO₂R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR₂, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl.

14. (original) A compound selected from:

ethyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;
 isobutyl 3-[(R)-{4-[(diethylamino)carbonyl]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]phenylcarbamate;
 enantiomers thereof; pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and mixtures thereof.

15. (cancelled)